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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06945 281522Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------090854 281525Z /75
O 281449Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5035

S E C R E T MANILA 06945

NODIS

EO: 11652:GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), RP
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: (A) MANILA 6820; (B) STATE 106151

1. EVENING APRIL 28 SALONGA GAVE POL COUNSELOR DECISION ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN GROUP MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT (REF A). SALONGA SAID HE HAD REGRETFULLY CONCLUDED, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIS COLLEAGUES, THAT HE COULD NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATE. DECISION WAS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE, HE ADDED, SINCE HE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN HONOR TO MEET WITH HIM.

2. SALONGA EXPLAINED THAT HIS NEGATIVE DECISION WAS BASED ON TWO FACTORS WHICH HE APPEARED TO WEIGH ABOUT EQUALLY. FIRST, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT DETAILS OF THE MEETING WOULD BECOME KNOWN TO THE REGIME (ESPECIALLY SINCE THE VENUE WOULD BE THE PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOTEL) AND THAT MARCOS WOULD USE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE OPPOSITION'S CAUSE. HE SUGGESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MARCOS WOULD USE THE MEETING TO REINFORCE THE GOP'S PUBLIC THEME THAT OPPOSITIONISTS ARE THE "RUNNING DOGS" OF THE AMERICANS. GIVEN THE MEDIA CONTROLS,
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THE OPPOSITION WOULD BE UNABLE TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY. SECOND, HE NOTED THAT FOR HIMSELF AND OTHER OPPOSITIONISTS THE PHILIPPINE PLAZA WAS THE PRIME SYMBOL OF ALL THE CORRUPTION OF THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT. SALONGA PERSONALLY HAD NEVER ENTERED THE HOTEL AND COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO DO SO NOW. IN PASSING, SALONGA REMARKED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH MACAPAGAL AND

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ROXAS AND HAD STRESSED PARTICULARLY HIS DISSATISFACTION
WITH THE PROPOSED VENUE.

3. IN VIEW SALONGA'S TURN-DOWN, REQUEST GUIDANCE ON WHETHER
TO (A) APPROACH POSSIBLE ALTERNATES (REF.B) - I.E.
BERNAS, CLAVER AND ROCES - AND, IF SO, IN WHAT ORDER OF
PREFERENCES: (B) DEVELOP NEW ALTERNATES: OR (C) LEAVE
WELL ENOUGH ALONE.STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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